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THE MEDIEVAL TIMES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001: MEMORIES

Sept. 11, 2001 dawned as a gorgeous day. The skies in Warrenton, Virginia, were a pristine shade of blue with banks of huge, fluffy clouds. Pregnant with my third child, I was up by about 7:30 that morning to get Michael and Eden off to school. When I returned to our rented townhouse after walking them to the bus stop, I turned on the TV for my daily fix of "Good Morning America." I remember that I was waiting for a later segment featuring the Duchess of York when the first mentions of an airplane hitting one of the towers of the World Trade Center were broadcast. Live feeds were straining to get clear shots of what happened and then suddenly, in that one horrifying moment, another jumbo plane flew directly into the second tower.

Diane Sawyer said, "Oh my God!" and Charles Gibson said something to the effect that it was now obvious that we were under an organized attack. Somehow in my shocked, stunned state, I remember thinking, "This changes everything." I didn't know the scope of how true that would be in my personal life or for the United States.

That horrible morning just seemed to go on and on, with more tragedy being reported by the hour. Something happened in Washington, D. C., although it wasn't clear what. A car bomb was erroneously reported to have gone off outside the State Dept. The White House was quickly evacuated when it was feared that a plane was headed into its walls. I was beside myself in grief, clutching my stomach, waiting for some word from Rick ensuring me that he was okay. Unbelievably when he called me that morning to say that he and the others in his training center were being sent home, he said that he wanted to stop at Wal-mart first to have the oil changed in our car. "No," I told him. "I really need

you to come home."

The feelings are still raw when I think of watching the Twin Towers collapse on live television. The people running down the streets, Mayor Rudy Giuliani panicking during an interview as he looked over his shoulder to see them falling, the dust, the smoke, the sudden realization that hundreds of people were still inside and they would never make it out. Then the tragedy of a plane slamming into the side of the Pentagon began to unfold. Hundreds of more deaths, witnesses on the highway describing the horrifying sight of that airliner speeding within feet of the tops of their cars as it headed toward its target. Would this day ever end?

Then as suddenly as the violence began, stillness came over America and a long month of mourning began. It was an eerie time to have to be in Washington, D. C., but there we were, preparing for our first overseas move to serve at the U. S. Embassy in Zambia. The downtown Marriot where we stayed was nearly deserted. All of the museums and monuments were either closed or very heavily guarded, government buildings were nearly impossible to enter. Restaurants which ordinarily would have been bursting at the seams with tourists were only half-full and unusually quiet. If laughter was heard, then it felt uncomfortable and out-of-place. Every flag in the

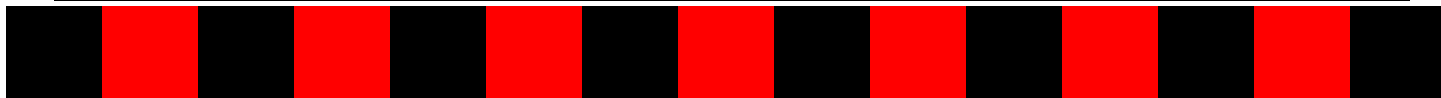
District was lowered to half-mast, the somber reminder that America was crying. With a no-fly rule in place for nearly two weeks following the attacks, I remember flinching the first time I did see a commercial jet overhead. Every time I closed my eyes, all I could envision was the indelible image of the plane slamming into Tower Two.

Everything did change for Rick and



WHAT'S INSIDE:

*BULLETIN Board, page 3 * FLO Announcement, page 4 * COMMUNITY Columns, pages 5-6 * UPCOMING Events, page 7 * COMMUNITY Activities, page 8 * VACATION Photo of the Week, page 9*



me after the attacks. We left for Zambia as scheduled, but the day after we arrived there, he was recalled back to his Air National Guard Unit in Florida. It had only been three months since we had sold our home and moved away from there, so for weeks after our return, he and I would ask ourselves, "What in the world are we doing back here?" But Rick was honored and proud to serve our country in this way, remaining with his unit for nearly 18 months from his recall.

I asked you to send me your memories of September 11, 2001. Here is what two of your co-workers had to say:

"I was in New York on 9/11. I arrived there on 9/05 from London Heathrow Airport. I went to New York for a year to be an au pair. Couple of days after I drove to Connecticut, Weston. The family I spent one year with knew a lot of people who died in this day. It was big shock to me, because these were my first days in America, so I think it is the day I will never forget. And also, it makes me think that I have to be a lucky person, thank God I didn't plan this trip for few days later, otherwise who knows what have might have happened to me, too."

"I remember the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon like it was last week. My heart is racing just thinking about it now.

I just drove past the Pentagon and was still in uniform from a hard nights work at Main State. The odd thing is that when I was patrolling the 23rd Street side of Main State, I was thinking what a wonderfully boring and uneventful job. Uneventful and boring is a good thing in security work. I got home which is close to two miles from the Pentagon. I heard a loud noise like thunder, but it was a clear day. I ran to the window (which is the wrong thing to do, but curiosity took over my good sense) and did not see anything, so I ran up the hill. I saw a little smoke in the horizon, but could not tell what it was yet. I walked back inside my apartment and turned on the television to see what was on fire. The TV was already on the Today show, and the images shown are now burned into my memory for the rest of my life.

I feel guilty now, as the first feeling was to locate my wife and to bunker down. I just pulled twelve hours of duty and was not eager to go back in to work, but eager, no actually frantic to find my wife. Her cell phone was not working and the FSI registrar's number was busy. So, I started to walk to FSI, but as I opened the door, Jessi and a future friend were pulling up the parking lot.

Then the reports of a possible car bomb at Main State almost

put me over the top with grief as my fellow Uniform Protection Officer would be guarding the perimeter. I called the command center to find out if there was something I could do, but I could not get them on the phone either. My imagination was running away with me, but then a report came in over the TV that the report of a car bomb at the State Dept was not true.

Even though, I was scheduled to be off that night, I waited a while and called in to volunteer my services. The Sergeant told me there would be no way to get into the city until later that night (my normal shift hours) and maybe not even then. The Sergeant of the Guard called me a few hours later and told me to take route 50 into the city and show my badge to any road blocks. I knew everything was different as the first vehicles I saw on the roads near the city were military humvees.

I got to Main State and for the first time ever had no problem parking. The normal group of UPO's was mustering for roll call and an additional group of volunteers and those that stayed from the previous shift. The assignments were handed out as many new traffic control points and other security posts were established. The feeling in roll call was of duty and pride, but I have seen fear in people's eyes before and no matter how angry or duty bound we felt, the eyes don't lie. I actually got an easy assignment that night, but a dangerous position. I was positioned in the 23rd street lobby (tours entrance and right outside the press area) the closest location to the street and the exterior wall is glass. In my mind I was not worried, but when I stood at the glass and looked out onto 23rd street watching the occasional military humvee or Capital Police car, I noticed my right leg was shaking. It shook all night, no matter if I was sitting or standing.

The next night, my regular scheduled time to work, a new position was established on the roof. Everyone was against working on the roof. I don't know if I was just too tired or glazed over by the trauma of the events, but I volunteered for the roof (actually the 8th floor balcony, the best view of Washington I have ever seen). Once I was on the roof, my partner and I realized that we had binoculars and we were not looking on the ground, but in the air. There were two ways out if a plane was heading for the building - to run the length of the building to the stairwell door or to jump eight floors. I don't know if my partner was just realizing the danger or tired or seeing things, but he took off running and pointing in the sky. I never thought of myself as a follower, but as soon as he took off, I followed. Just some food for



thought, it is very hard to try and use a handheld radio while running at full speed. Once I got to the door I asked him what he was looking at and he pointed to the red blinking light in the sky. The light was two police or military helicopters flying around the Washington Monument and the red light on the top of the monument. At that moment all the lights on the monuments and some of the streets went out. I was and have never been so terrified at that moment. I found out later that this was a war time strategy so the enemy could not target the buildings or use the well known monuments as guides to other buildings from the air.

The memories of September 11th, 2001 will be with us for always as will be my thoughts for the victims and their families of that day."

One final word. This is from an email sent to me by an Estonian friend of mine. The pain of that day was indeed felt deeply all over the world. Kerttu says, "Just want to let you know that what happened five years ago in the U.S had devastating impact on all of us over the oceans. We are sorry, especially for those of you who did lose someone in the catastrophe. Thinking of you especially on this day of memorial today."

HEALTH Unit News



On Sunday, September 24th 2006, a " SL Õhtulehe 24. Rahvajooks" (Baltic Marathon) will be taking place in Tallinn, Song Festival Ground at 12:00. It's a yearly run which has become very popular. It starts at 10AM with the run/walk for small kids, called Selveri Chick Mini marathon (usually 1 km). Other runs available: Marathon, Half marathon and 10 km at 12.00; 3 km youth (15 y. and younger) race at 12.10, and 5 km fun run (and Nordic walking) at 12.15. You do not have to be a runner in order to participate. In fact, a lot of people are walking (this is the only distance with no time checking). The finish place is Tallinn Cycling Track. The "after-party" and program starts there at 13:00. You can register (and find more info) for the run by internet http://www.marathon.ee/reg_form.php. Check out the registration fees as you have to pay first.

PARTICIPATION FEES

Race for children is free.

	July	August	September
youth race 3 km	2 EUR	3 EUR	4 EUR
5 km and walking	4 EUR	5 EUR	6 EUR
10 km	7 EUR	10 EUR	13 EUR
21 km	10 EUR	13 EUR	16 EUR
marathon	20 EUR	25 EUR	32 EUR

When registering on the day of the race the entry fee is doubled!

Bank:

HANSAPANK, S.W.I.F.T. HABA EE2X, Beneficiary's name and account no: Rahvajooksu Klubi 221002162165. On the payment order you must include: full name, address, distance, and DOB. Your registration number will be sent by mail on the noted address (or you can get your start number at the start place 2 hours before the start).

Tasumine pank:

Rahvajooksu Klubi. a/a 221002162165 Hansapank

Maksekorraldusele märkida: täielik nimi, aadress, distants ja sünniaasta. Rinnanumber saadetakse postiga koju.

You can also register at the information desk in Selver Supermarkets until September 22 at 18:00.

UPCOMING Events in Tallinn

SEPTEMBER 15-16: Autumnal Farming Days, Estonia Open Air Museum. The fair on Sunday features vegetables, sweets, handicrafts and more. [Www.evm.ee](http://www.evm.ee).

SEPTEMBER 22-24: Real Estate 2006. Real estate expo in the Pirita conference center, Pirita Tee 28. www.fair.ee.

SEPTEMBER 30: Kuusakoski/Monster Mania 2006. Monster Truck event at the Tallinna Hippodroom. Tickets available at Piletilevi outlets. For more information, www.piletilevi.ee.



TALLINN on the World Wide Web

USEFUL TALLINN-RELATED WEB SITES:

International School of Estonia:
www.ise.edu.ee

ISE's PTA Welcome Information:
www.ise.edu.ee/pta/info_packet_wholeframe.html

For local movie listings:
www.superkinod.ee

For local restaurant information,
Including online menus and ordering:
www.toit.ee

For a listing of local concerts:
www.concert.ee

For tourism info:
www.tourism.tallinn.ee

Local Golf Course:
www.egcc.ee

For a schedule of fairs at the Convention Center complex:
www.fair.ee

Local businesses and other listings:
www.inyourpocket.com/estonia/tallinn/en
www.1182.ee

International Women's Club of Tallinn:
www.iwct.ee

Hash House Harriers Running Club:
www.hot.ee/harriers

Embassy intranet travel links:
www.usemb.ee/internal/travel/travel.html

Embassy Health Unit intranet link:
www.usemb.ee/internal/healthunit/med.html

COMMUNITY Activities: Body, Soul, & Spirit

Called one of the most beautiful courses in Estonia, the 18-hole PGA ETC-endorsed SEA COURSE is now open at the Estonian Golf & Country Club! You can register tee times online through the Caddiemaster. For directions to the EGCC and pricing details, visit their web site at www.egcc.ee.

There is an Expat Women's Prayer and Fellowship Group which meets one Tuesday each month in the Kristiine area of Tallinn. Contact Wendy Mason for more information. Call 654-4428 or email her at wendy.mason@pobox.com.

The International Women's Club of Tallinn sponsors a toddlers & babies playgroup every Wednesday from 10:00 until 12:00. All parents of preschool-aged children in Tallinn's international community are invited to attend. There is no charge to participate and it is open to children aged 1 day to 6 years old. For more information, contact Rachael Peters, raepeters@yahoo.co.uk.

If you have a favorite Tallinn-related web site not featured here or know of a church, group, or organization you would like to share with your Embassy community, please send the information to USASaatkond@state.gov. Thank you!



Places of Worship

- Eesti Baptist, Kentmanni 3a, in the lecture room. Services in English and Estonian on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Additional events throughout the week, including youth activities on Friday nights. Call 5 373 7569 for more information. www.estonianbaptist.net.
- Eleva Vee Kogudus (Living Waters Church), Merivalja tee 3 (Pirita). Tel.: 645-7677. Services Sunday mornings at 11:00 in English with Estonian translation. Classes for children and youth are offered. www.EVK.ee.
- International Community Church of Estonia, Ravala Pst. 3, Radisson SAS, 2nd Floor (Kesklinn). Services in English every Sunday at 11 a.m. www.churchofestonia.org. Classes for children are offered.
- Mustamäe Linnakogudus (Mustamäe City

Church), Laki tn. 14A (Mustamäe). Tel.: 683-7810. Services Sunday evenings at 17:00 in English with Estonian translation. Classes for children are offered. www.mmlk.org.

- Pühavaimu Kirik (The Holy Ghost Church), 2 Pühavaimu (Old Town). Tel.: 644-1487. Lutheran. Anglican services in English every Sunday at 15:00.
- Rooma-Katoliku Kirik (Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church), 16 Vene. Tel.: 644-6367. Roman Catholic services available in Estonian, Polish, and Lithuanian. An English service is held every Saturday 18:00.
- United Pentecostal Church, Tulika Poik 4-228. Services are on Sundays at 3:00 p.m. Call Pastor Rick Reynolds at 5 362 5711 for more information.